

AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following new paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2:

— This application is a continuation of copending application 08/873,972, filed June 12, 1997. —

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 7, line 14, with the following paragraph marked to show changes:

— The present invention relates to an improved mechanical connection between a structural panel 1 and the framing members 2 that support the structural panel 1 forming a diaphragm. As best shown in FIG. 1, the preferred embodiment of the connection includes: a structural panel 1 having a distal side 3, a proximal side 4, and a plurality of edge faces 5; a frame 6 consisting of a plurality of framing members 2 disposed in registration with the proximal side 4 of the structural panel 1 near the edge faces 5; a plurality of perimeter fasteners 7 connecting the structural panel 1 to the framing members 2; and means for reducing bending of the perimeter fasteners attached to substantial number of the perimeter fasteners 7. The means for reducing bending of the perimeter fasteners act when lateral forces are imposed on the building structure 8 of which the diaphragm is a part. —

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19, with the following paragraph marked to show changes:

— The means for reducing bending of the perimeter fasteners can be formed in a variety of shapes; for instance, as a plurality of individual, substantially

u-shaped clips 17 that work on the perimeter fasteners 7 individually, or as a single perimeter edging member 18 pierced by substantially all of the perimeter fasteners 7, or as in the preferred embodiment a plurality of perimeter edging members, each of which is pierced by a plurality of perimeter fasteners 7 and which together, preferably, strengthen substantially all of the perimeter fasteners 7.—

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 8, line 27, with the following paragraph marked to show changes:

— The species of the present invention formed as a single perimeter edging member 18, pierced by substantially all of the perimeter fasteners 7, can be shaped in a variety of ways. Furthermore, the sub-species of the present invention formed as a plurality of perimeter edging members, each pierced by a plurality of perimeter fasteners 7, can be shaped in the same variety of ways. The subspecies formed as a plurality of perimeter edging members in the preferred embodiment is essentially a single perimeter edging member 18 apportioned into smaller members, and as such their variations in shape are essentially identical. Since this is so, the various shapes possible will only be described for the subspecies formed as a plurality of perimeter edging members. The plurality of perimeter edging members can be formed as elongated strips 19 with first face members 20 pierced by the perimeter fasteners 7, or as elongated, substantially u-shaped perimeter edging members 21.—

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 9, line 15, with the following paragraph marked to show changes:

— The means for reducing bending of the perimeter fasteners can also be formed as a plurality of perimeter edging members, each being pierced by a plurality of the perimeter fasteners 7, preferably, the perimeter edging members together providing resistance against bending for substantially all of the perimeter fasteners 7. These perimeter edging members can be formed as elongated strips 19 with first face members 20, as shown in **FIG. 12**, or preferably, as elongated, substantially u-shaped perimeter edging members 21, as shown in **FIG. 6**.—